

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

censorship, and *to* avoid complicated lawsuits, the government often counters by forbidding a printer to print the paper and functionaries to read it. Since invariably the paper has little capital, and inasmuch asdic functionaries form the great majority of its subscribers, this has proved a very effective means of indirect control. The ungrateful task of censorship is performed by a group of linguistic Frenchmen with native assistants. Their work is complicated by the abundance and obscurity of the double meanings dear to Asiatic writers. Such was notoriously the case in 1908 when an incitation to revolt was disguised as an agricultural bulletin. This and similar blunders have made the censors unduly nervous, and in their zeal they have become ridiculous by crying rebellion at such simple phrases as "*la cloche qui reveille*." News of a factual but discouraging nature is also deleted, like the report of inundations or of regional uprisings.

A policy of reprisals is not exclusively a government monopoly. Indo-Chinese newspapers have flourished upon blackmail to such an extent that they have come to exercise in this way a form of private control. Anarchist nationalists also turn the tables on French editors whose politics they find reactionary. Tirard of Haiphong, who founded the *Cong An Nam*, reproduced (December 18, 1925) in his paper an old military proclamation with his own commentaries. For this and his subsequent article he received numerous letters from Annameses filled

even a threat of death if he persevered.¹

A persona! and violent tone characterizes the Indo-Chinese

It has become the fashion for an aggrieved individual, usually * functionary, to use his small capital to purchase a paper in which he can air his grievances.

Of origin were *La Voix Libre* (1920),
L'Jbubdme, La Limit,
Le and, to a lesser extent, *Le Temps ffAsie*.
 Another pubMct-
 of* character, but of a more general
 outlook, ww
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 articles the dangers of aad
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 It m to a paper*& policy, for it changes
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 1 *Li* 1930), p.
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